



U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

GREATER SOUTHWEST REGION

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Voice over Internet Protocol — Wave of the future or waves of hype?

Is there an IP phone in your future? Will your laptop become your long distance provider? What are the “killer applications” that are driving the migration to new voice communications?

Like it or not, Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) technologies are hastening the convergence of the voice and data worlds. Many VoIP providers promise huge cost savings. Some promise a world of astonishing new applications that will change the way you think about communicating.

OMB Memorandum M-05-22, Transition Planning for Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6), August 2, 2005, provides guidance to ensure agencies orderly and securely transition from Internet Protocol Version 4 to Version 6 (IPv6). By the year 2008, agency infrastructures must be using IPv6² and networks must interface with this infrastructure. To avoid unnecessary future costs, agencies should ensure all new IT procurements are IPv6 compliant.



VoIP is only one topic included in the many **free training courses** you can attend at **EXPO 2006**. This course will feature a presentation on the most current VoIP trends, technology, and economic information available, as well as demonstrations of some “cool new toys,” with the goal of making your forward communication path a bit more clear.

Register on-line to attend EXPO 2006 at URL: <http://www.expo.gsa.gov>

GSA hopes to make NETWORKX awards early

The Networkx program will provide comprehensive, best-value telecommunications and networking services and technical solutions to all federal agencies. The Networkx program will serve as the primary replacement for the expiring FTS2001 and FTS2001 Crossover contracts and federal wireless contracts.

GSA will issue multiple awards under Networkx. Fred Schobert, GSA's program manager for Networkx, said that GSA hopes to issue awards for the Universal and Enterprise parts of the procurement before March and May 2007, respectively. The Universal part of Networkx will provide government locations with a broad range of telecom services nationwide, while the Enterprise part will offer a range of specialized Internet protocol or wireless services in specific geographical areas.

NETWORKX Summit planned

Although the contracts will not be awarded until next spring and summer, GSA is planning a transition summit conference to be held September 6-7, 2006 in Reston, VA. The purpose of the summit is to explore how agencies will transition from the existing Federal Telecommunications Systems 2001 to the 10-year Networkx contracts.

John Johnson, assistant commissioner for service development and delivery within GSA's Federal Technology Service, said “The focus [of the conference] will be on preparing everyone for the transition to Networkx—industry, government, GSA, and any other constituency.”

GSA receives final Congressional approval to establish the Federal Acquisition Service

GSA announced April 7, 2006, that its plan to create the Federal Acquisition Service (FAS) had received final approval from Congress. FAS will be formed by the merger of GSA's Federal Supply Service (FSS) and the Federal Technology Service (FTS).

The White House nominated Lurita Alexis Doan as administrator of the General Services Administration. Ms. Doan most recently served as president and chief executive officer of New Technology Management Inc., a surveillance technology company that she founded in 1990. She has received a number of awards for her work, including the General Services Administration's Circle of Excellence Award.

SkyTel: a WiFi success story

When Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast August 29, 2005, the GSA Advanced Wireless Personal Communications Equipment and Services contract vendor, SkyTel Corp. donated its new WiFi Wireless Broadband Services to government disaster-relief teams. With GSA coordinating, within days SkyTel had WiFi up and running in Louisiana and Mississippi for: FEMA; MEMA; Louisiana State Police; American Red Cross; Louisiana Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (LOHSEP); USDA; and the National Guard. Roughly two dozen installations were accomplished, in such diverse locations as the Lamar Dixon Center in Gonzales (south of Baton Rouge), the Hirsch Coliseum in Shreveport, Nichols State University in Thibodaux, two Carnival cruise ships (Ecstasy and Sensation) docked at New Orleans, the Exxon Mobile Refinery in Chalmette, the City of Biloxi, MS administration buildings, and several high schools and community centers in the affected areas.

Evacuees registered and connected with family members using WiFi "mesh technology", multiple WiFi nodes that communicate with each other over larger areas. Agencies communicated wirelessly in areas where landlines were still underwater and temporarily irreparable.

After observing how WiFi benefited the government during Katrina efforts, GSA modified SkyTel's GSA contract (GS-07T-05-BGD-0001) to add WiFi. The GSA final negotiated contract modification for WiFi can be deployed in a matter of hours after receipt of an agency-written Order, if necessary. WiFi is available for indoor or outdoor coverage, large or small areas, and short-term or long-term use. SkyTel owns and maintains all equipment, installs it where needed by the customers, offers open access or secure log-ins, and customizes per the customer's requirements. The initial WiFi is setup as a wireless network, but additional equipment can be acquired to allow for wired interface. Though SkyTel's WiFi was tested in disaster-relief environments, it is well suited for non-catastrophe applications, such as preparing an agency backup COOP location, or building out campuses or bases in remote locations, where other broadband services are unavailable.

For more information, please contact the GSA COTR, Russ Peery, email: russ.peery@gsa.gov, 817-978-2296 or contact the SkyTel GSA Contract Manager, Kimberly Young, email: kimberly.l.young@verizonbusiness.com.



BlackBerry® resolution

The provider of GSA's BlackBerry service, Research In Motion (RIM), was involved in a lawsuit with a patent holding company called NTP, Inc.

In March, the two parties reached an agreement that finalized all claims and the litigation was dismissed by the Court. This means that the patent issues are fully resolved and agencies should not experience any disruption in their BlackBerry service.

If you have any questions, please contact Russ Peery, (817) 978-2296 or email: russ.peery@gsa.gov.

Satellite program contracts extended

GSA offered contract extensions of six months to each of the current service providers on the Federal Technology Service Satellite Program which was scheduled to expire in January, 2006. These short extensions will ensure that agency customers continue to receive uninterrupted services until award of new contracts under SATCOM-II. The Request For Proposals for SATCOM-II was released on Fed-BizOpps in February.

For more information please contact Jim Russo: (703) 306-6631 or email: jim.russo@gsa.gov.



New and exciting changes made to GSA Advantage!

Effective February 13, 2006, changes were made to GSA Advantage such as:

- **New Special Categories:**
Two new special categories, Environmental and Disaster Relief will be available from the GSA Advantage home-page. These categories are tailored to help locate related products and services, and contain links to useful information and to associated laws and regulations.
- **New Profile Update: Address Book:**
The look and feel of your profile address book has been reconstructed for better clarity and usability. This new layout will allow you to view the complete shipping/mailling addresses on one page and enable you to designate an individual to receive shipment.
- **Improved Sorting for Search Results:**
The new sorting function will allow you to sort your search results by price in ascending or descending order. In addition, the "Select Manufacturer" dropdown list now includes the # of products offered by each manufacturer. You will also be able to select a manufacturer using the new "#, A, B, C, D ..." listing.
- **Simplified Shopping Cart:**
You now have the ability to add the same product to your shopping cart as long as the product's options/accessories are configured differently. Also, the vendor name will be displayed with all NSN/Mfr. Part No.'s and delivery details will display the type of delivery and the number of delivery days.
- **Streamlined Checkout Process:**
The "Checkout – Review" will display all your order details on one page. Checkout information will be pre-filled using the information from your profile and editing this information can be done easily via the provided links. Required agency specific information (i.e. appropriation data and/or purchase order number) will also be easy to update. In addition, the individual designated to receive shipment will be printed on the purchase order and options/accessories will be identified with each manufacturer part number.
- **Enhanced Order History:**
Order History will provide more detailed information on your orders. Symbols associated with each item will be displayed beneath the item number and at the bottom of the page. Shipping addresses and individuals receiving shipment will also be listed. In addition, a new "View/Print PO" button will allow you to print a copy of your Purchase Order that was sent directly to a vendor.

Air Force Advantage! opens to entire Air Force

After testing with select Air Force users since 2001, the Air Force opened Air Force *Advantage!*, coinciding with the release of GSA *Advantage!* Version IX.

All Air Force customers will now be redirected to the Air Force *Advantage!* virtual store when they log in from GSA *Advantage!* Air Force customers will have access to specific Air Force information and Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPAs) awarded on GSA's Multiple Award Schedules. In addition, Air Force *Advantage!* users will also have access to shop for items on GSA *Advantage!* and from GSA Global Supply.



The Greater Southwest Region's Federal Technology Service professional and dedicated associates work diligently to assist in fulfilling your acquisition needs for the most up-to-date information technology, professional services and telecommunications products and services. In this section, we'd like to share some of the accolades received from our customers.

Greater Southwest Regional Administrator Scott Arney honored more than 130 associates who were deployed in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita at a ceremony February 27 in Fort Worth. Arney personally thanked them for the sacrifices made while deployed for extensive periods of time to Baton Rouge, New Orleans and Austin. "Public service is one of dedication, selflessness, great reward and sacrifice. Many Americans do not realize that the families of those who serve the public exhibit the same attributes and make the same sacrifices as those who have chosen to serve," Arney said. Honorees were presented with a memento of their service. Among those honored were the following FTS associates:

Marcella Banks	Russell Colomo	Joey Phelps	Russ Peery	JR Simpson
Cynthia Kirby	Karen LaBoon	Lee Moore	Karon Sheppard	Keith Ellison
Ken Livingston	Trina McBride	Richard Shelton	Mike Grimes	Michael Loria

U. S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals New Orleans, Louisiana

"Ken Livingston was simply a 'godsend' to the U. S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals with regard to its recent wiring/phone project in New Orleans. Not only did he marshal through the project from pre-bid to installation, he did so under the worst possible circumstance, Hurricane Katrina. And the Court's project in New Orleans was complicated, involved two buildings and using existing and new equipment. I have worked for the Court for ten years now, and Ken is the most responsive individual I have worked with out of any division of the GSA. I hope that his efforts are rewarded for his good work because he went well beyond the call of duty."

David Carlson

Kirtland Air Force Base Albuquerque, NM

"Mr. (Anthony) Trujillo's assistance greatly simplified our basic contract effort, amendments to the contract, and contractor billing reviews. I look forward to working with Mr. Trujillo on our future contracting efforts."

Edward Scott

Airborne Laser System Program Office Kirtland Air Force Base Albuquerque, New Mexico

"Gary (Duffala) has once again come to our rescue through sheer willpower and determination. As this acquisition was critical to the continuation of operations in the Business and Finance Department of the Airborne Laser System Program Office, a highly visible program within the Missile Defense Agency, we are sincerely indebted to his resourcefulness and efforts on this acquisition. We look forward to working with Gary and company on the source selection coming up."

David Mied

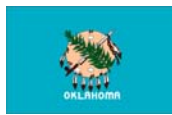
Social Security Administration Austin, Texas

"Larry's (Logan) knowledge and expertise always contributes to a smooth and successful cutover when an office relocates. He is always on site to resolve any problems and that is very important to us. He is a valuable resource person concerning any telephone issues. He makes our job in the individual agency easy. He provides excellent service."

Jon T. Herron

Greater Southwest Region FTS at your service . . .

Serving Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, and the Americas



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For more information about the Greater Southwest Region FTS, visit URL:

<http://www.gsa.gov/greatersouthwest>